Elections in J & K

728. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Home Affairs has announced that elections would be held in Jammu and Kashmir before July, 1995;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(c) whether the law and order conditions in the State are conducive to a free and fair election?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) President's Rule in the State of Jammu and Kashmir can presently extend till 17th July 1995. To create conditions conducive to normalisation and the restoration of the democratic institutions in the State, a number of steps have been taken. These include: sustained and targetted operations to contain the activities of the militants and reduce the fear of the gun; stepping up the pace of development and economic activities in the State; reactivation of the civil administration and restoring its morale; restoration of the confidence of the people in and enlisting their cooperation with the administration; reactivation of the political elements in the State; and encouragement to the people to strengthen the peace process through confidence building measures, including release of detenues, etc.

These efforts are being closely monitored, and the Government intends to pursue them intensively. Simultaneously, the procedural aspects pertaining to the electoral process are also being attended to. The delimitation of constituencies and the revision of the voters' list have been taken up by the Election Commission.

The situation will be kept continuously under review and a final decision about the precise timing of the elections will be taken at the appropriate time.

Investigations by DGI & R Against some Companies

729. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Questions 469 and 1441 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July and 15th December, 1994 respectively, and state;

(a) whether Colgate Palmolive India Limited has since made available the information called for by DG (I&R);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in submissions of the information and the steps Government propose to take for getting the desired information from the Company.

(d) whether the MRTP has taken a view on the preliminary investigations in respect of Hindustan Lever Limited and Ponds India Limited;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when the view is likely to be taken;

(f) whether MRTPC was investigating cases against Saurashtra Ballpen Company and Philips Radio in the past; and

(g) whether the matter has been finalised and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) Director General of Investigation and Registration has since submitted his investigation reports in case of

Colgate Palmolive India Limited, Hindustan Lever Limited and Ponds India Limited to the MRTP Commission. The Commission has already issued notice of enquiry against these companies on 9.3.1995. The cases are sub-judice before the Commission.

(f) and (g) As regards investigations against Saurashtra Ballpen Company and Phillips Radio (renamed as Pieco Electronics and Electricals Ltd.), the MRTP Commission instituted RTP Enquiry against both the companies. While the matter relating to the former company was last heard by the MRTP Commission on 3.2.1995 and is now posted for hearing on 28.4.1995 for arguments, the case of the later company was last heard by the Hon'ble Commission on 7.2.1995 and is now posted for arguments on 24.4.1995. Both the matters are subjudice before the Commission.

Cases disposed of by Supreme Court High Courts

730. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases disposed of by the Supreme Court and High Courts during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and as on date;

(b) whether a larger number of cases are still pending in Supreme Court and High Courts;

(c) if so, since when these cases are pending; and

(d) the measures taken to expedite the disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Information is furnished in the Statement I & II attached (*See* below)

(d) In order to consider the problem of arrears of cases in Courts and find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible, a meeting, of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts was held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The resolutions adopted in the Conference have been commended to all the State Governments/ UT Administrations and High Courts for necessary action. Further, the Administration of Justice has been made a plan item, with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases. In addition, the Supreme Court has also taken various steps to expedite the disposal of cases, which include grouping together of similar matters and larger groups being given priority in listing, setting apart three days a week for regular hearing matters and Constitution of specialised benches etc. The working hours of the Supreme Court have also been extended by half an hour.

Statement

S. No	Name of the High Court	No of Cases disposed of during				
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	
1		2	3	4	5	
1.	Allahabad. . .	60326	67093	82599	82563	
2.	Guwahati . . .	8349	10123	12074	5361	(1-1-94 to 30-6-94)
3.	Karnataka . .	48301	53715	35741	40740	